

Chapter 1 Our glorious leaders, a history of the last 70 years

To obtain an informed view of where we *should* be headed, we need an understanding of recent British history to explain the current mess.

It is interesting to note that in 1945, on most measures, we were even more bust than we are now.

In terms of overall government debt to GDP we certainly were.

To get us started then, here is a potted history of our post second world war Prime Ministers and how they coped with Britain's problems.

The second of two world wars, both started by Germany, has just finished and much of Europe lies in ruins. You won't see an orange in a supermarket for a few years yet!

- **Clement Attlee** (1945-1950, 1950-1951)
 - First in the list and *by far the best*, he was not flashy, just competent, diligent and worked *for* the people of war torn Britain.
 - He nationalised 20% of the British economy in the areas that would best serve the people
 - Ensured that the Education Act 1944 was fully implemented, with free secondary education becoming a right for the first time.
 - Fees in state grammar schools were eliminated, while new, modern secondary schools were constructed.
 - He managed to maintain near full employment at about 97%
 - He oversaw the introduction of the NHS
 - and much, much more good work for agriculture, industry and rights of working people...

Now we must pause a while to consider the two general elections of 1950 and 1951. These are important because they demonstrate some of the main inadequacies of the *first past the post* system which we still use in Britain today to work out who should be in government.

I will talk more about those two elections in chapter 14, but for now will just say that Labour had the majority vote in both elections (in the order of millions of votes) and whilst they won the 1950 election they lost in 1951 to the Tories despite an overall majority of 1.4 million votes!

- **Winston Churchill** (1951-1955)
 - tax allowances were raised
 - construction of council housing was accelerated
 - pensions and national assistance benefits were increased
 - charges for prescription medicines were introduced
 - dispatched British troops to Kenya to deal with the Mau Mau rebellion, trying to maintain what was left of the British Empire
- **Anthony Eden** (Conservative: 1955-1957)
 - The 1955 general election was notable because it was the last in which the Conservatives won a majority share of the votes in Scotland (60 years ago)

- Just like Churchill, made the mistake of believing that a *special relationship*¹⁸ existed between the USA and Britain and was devastated when the USA opposed the Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt when Nasser nationalised the Suez canal. (Thatcher was to make the same mistake over USA support for the Falklands war but she got lucky, she won, Eden did not). The simple fact was, that whilst Europe relied on the Suez canal for oil supplies, the USA did not.
- **It's *always* about the oil!**¹⁹

It's worth a quote here to show that the U.S.A.'s insular and petty action here was a huge mistake and led to four major policy errors in the Middle East from which we still suffer. I have more evidence to present on the so-called special relationship in Chapter 10, but here is what D.R Thorpe (Anthony Eden's biographer) said:

“Eden's policy had four main aims: first, to secure the Suez Canal; second and consequentially, to ensure continuity of oil supplies; third, to remove Nasser; and fourth, to keep the Russians out of the Middle East. The immediate consequence of the crisis was that the Suez Canal was blocked, oil supplies were interrupted, Nasser's position as the leader of Arab nationalism was strengthened, and the way was left open for Russian intrusion into the Middle East. It was a truly tragic end to his premiership, and one that came to assume a disproportionate importance in any assessment of his career.”

- On the plus side, he was against the EEC, but for the wrong reasons
- **Harold Macmillan** (Conservative: 1957-1963)
 - Started the Beeching cuts which decimated our ageing but otherwise wonderful, if badly managed, railway system, destroying the British rail network forever, that glorious Victorian legacy. He doomed us to a future of oil based road traffic expansion, rather than a *green* electric rail system which would have been the envy of the world.
- **Alec Douglas-Home** (Conservative: 1963-1964)
 - He didn't last long, 362 days to be precise)
 - Reminded us all why we wouldn't be voting Tory for a few years, a lovely chap but a privileged relic of a bygone age²⁰
- **Harold Wilson** (Labour: 1964–1970 & 1974-1976)
 - Well, actually he wasn't too bad! In most commentators' view, he was the best post war prime minister, second only to Clement Atlee of course, to date and by far!²¹
 - Legalised abortion
 - Abolished capital punishment
 - Decriminalised homosexuality, between men. Gay women did not yet exist of course!

18 Chapter 10 discusses relations between the USA and us in depressing detail

19 It is interesting to note that there is a strong argument that the first world war was all about oil in Iraq and the railway to transport it all back to Germany. (Google is your friend)

20 *“he appeared honourably ineligible for the struggle of life”* - Cyril Connolly, a contemporary of his at Eton.

21 ... apart from, arguably, the introduction of “Comprehensive” schools thus politicising secondary education

- However, he failed to implement *In Place of Strife* a bill which amongst many things proposed to force unions to ballot their membership over strike action. This was stopped by a misguided Jim Callaghan of which more below. Had this been implemented, much of the misery caused by all too powerful unions in the 1970's might have been avoided.
- The first of the grammar school boys to make it to PM.
- **Edward Heath** (Conservative: 1970–1974)
 - Oh dear me, a bad one!
 - Took us into the European Economic Community, failing to see that a simple common market would have been better for us rather than costing us untold £billions in waste, gob smacking inefficiency & corruption
- **James Callaghan** (Labour: 1976-1979)
 - Yawn ...*except* for probably the most important speech a British politician has ever given, talking on BBC TV in 1976 :

"We used to think that you could spend your way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you, in all candour, that that option no longer exists, and in so far as it ever did exist, it only worked on each occasion since the war by injecting a bigger dose of inflation into the economy, followed by a higher level of unemployment as the next step."

This jewel of wisdom and insight (a comment 1920's Keynesian economics) has been studiously ignored by all politicians in all political parties since. Those criminally clever bankers have since invented Quantitative Easing as a method to hide inflation, but that is exactly what QE is, it just delays the effect and gives banks time to regroup.

Why is this wisdom ignored?

Time for our next definition!

Quantitative Easing: Definition one of three

Here is some sanity from my favourite BBC economics commentator, Stephanie Flanders, who said on her blog:

"Some say that QE is all a confidence trick, albeit, an important one. What, exactly, the Bank does is less important than the fact that it is seen to be doing something. The US comedian, Mitch Hedberg, had a line I reprised on the Today programme this morning: "My fake flowers died, because I forgot to pretend to water them." On this view, the Bank needs to pretend to water the economy, even if there's less and less chance of it doing any good."

Quantitative Easing: Definition two of three

This from George Osborne in opposition:

"QE is the last resort of desperate governments when all other policies have failed

This quote says more about George Osborne, and the disease that is party politics in general, than I could hope to have said in a whole chapter. Thanks Georgey boy! What a

disingenuous²² arse!

Quantitative Easing: Definition 3 of 3

Here is what actually happens:

- The Bank of England prints money electronically. One minute the UK money supply is say £40 trillion quid and the next second it is £45 trillion, magic!
- The Bank of England then buys government bonds from the banks with this magic money and a public statement is made by Chancellor Osborne to the effect that banks should now lend more to business.
- UK Banks' balance sheets now look better and have more cash for bonuses HURRAH! Buying government bonds from pension funds has the effect of reducing the return on bonds. This making shares "look" more attractive and somehow overcomes the limitation of the accepted definition of *printing money* (Pre-war Germany, Zimbabwe etc.)
- However, banks still do not loan to businesses **because that does not return as much profit as digging holes in 3rd world countries does, which by the way, is how Merchant Banks have always made their money. It is a dirty exploitative way of making profit and it STINKS, but, that is what banking is all about.**

The Bank of England *believes* QE is different because it is printing money as part of monetary policy to prevent deflation²³. It is not printing money to help the government finance its deficit. Also, unlike Zimbabwe, this is a temporary policy: the Bank expects to sell the government bonds back into the market when the economy recovers.'

(Ed: Oh Yeah? We wait with bated breath ;-)

Quantitative easing is actually a *back door* process designed to save the banking system by apparently improving the asset side of Banks' balance sheets, and it STINKS! It is an example of the trickle down theory so loved by supporters of a completely unregulated free market. In other words 'If we make loadsa money, the poor will eventually get a bit richer too.'

Sadly, for us that is, there are no votes in actually sorting out the debt disaster we *were* in then, or indeed, *now*! That would mean pointing out that the personal debt mountains that most of us have, do not actually make us any happier, it just makes bankers and globalised manufacturers richer.

Who is going to tell the voters that, eh?

Certainly not politicians hungry for votes?

Certainly not the bankers and globalised businesses that *fund* the main political parties!

Now, 40 years on, it is far, far worse, and party politicians are systemically unable to sort the debt out, because, logically, it means the end of the welfare state to which we are addicted, and where are the party votes in that? Oh, and the banks wouldn't like it either ;-)

22 This word is what polishituns use when they actually mean lying. It means, not candid or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does. Another word for the absence honesty about which we hear very little.

23 "when prices are declining over time. This is the opposite of inflation; when the inflation rate (by some measure) is negative, the economy is in a deflationary period."

You are, I sincerely hope, beginning to see that party politics and economic theory is a complex web of smoke and mirrors, where the politicians and economists see themselves as magicians. I hope that you can now see them as self interested confidence tricksters.

Charles Dickens tried to deliver this message too, in his novel David Copperfield. The words spoken by Mr Micawber²⁴ have become famous because they were adopted as Margaret Thatcher's guiding economic principles.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness.

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery."

As did Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of the USA:

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world."

Ok, back to the prime ministerial history...

- **Margaret Thatcher** (1979 –1990, a bad one, quite disastrous in fact)
 - Misused and wasted our North Sea gas & oil reserves
 - Emasculated our manufacturing base from which we may never recover
 - *Talked* a lot about balancing the economy's books but never actually *did* anything about it (future echoes of Blair?). Instead she sold off the nation's most precious assets, one by one (see next item)
 - Privatised our national utility assets and sold them off too cheaply (either criminal financial incompetence or crony-ism!) I can *almost* forgive the privatisation of gas & electricity *generation*, **but not the electricity distribution grid and all our water supply?** Give me strength!
 - Destroyed acres of fruit production in Worcestershire & Kent, with, of course, the EU's blessing, leaving us with Golden Delicious apples from France which are neither golden or delicious
 - Embraced globalisation in the mistaken belief that ever bigger global corporations were a good thing for *we the people*
 - Warped by party political considerations
 - Destroyed, in the end, by her own ego and a mental illness induced by hanging on to power for far too long and was removed by cabinet of sheep who had been enthralled by her *certainties* for too long
 - A conviction politician who was just wrong, but nobody could tell her
 - Why was she NOT gaoled?
- OK she *did* do *one* thing that needed doing:
 - She sorted out the far too strident unions who did NOT have the working person, or common sense, in mind

Oh, if only Harold Wilson had been able implement "In place of Strife", we might have been saved from what Thatcher did to Britain!

- **John Major** (1990 – 1997)

²⁴ Translation is necessary for people under 40, "Annual income £20, annual expenditure £19.50, result happiness. Annual income £20, annual expenditure £20.50, result misery."

- The last Tory leader to actually “win” a general election was in 1992. That’s a long time ago, and before you were born Kirsty!)
 - Signed us up to Maastricht²⁵, what a complete berk! How on earth will we ever recover from that pile of flawed legislation
 - Presided over a sleaze ridden corruptocracy of Tory politicians, it just went on and on week after week, sordid revelation after sordid revelation of insider dealing and moral corruption
 - Introduced the Citizens Charter to protect the public from Quango²⁶ bureaucracy. That went well then, never heard of it you cry? I wonder why?
 - Introduced the cone hot-line²⁷. The hot-line was widely seen as being a complete waste of government resources. It was quietly disbanded in September 1995, having fielded a total of fewer than twenty thousand calls. It was rumoured that many of these calls were not entirely serious ... (Ed: ‘Ooh stop, it hurts’!)
 - Privatised British rail into several of the most idiotic organisations ever envisaged by man:
 - separating the track from the trains, duh (1)!
 - introducing a mind-numbingly inefficient time tabling and pricing system that makes today's mobile phone tariffs look simple duh(2)!
 - Gets the booby prize for first using PFIs (Private Finance Initiatives) to hide public debt from the public. I expose the evil of PFIs in greater detail later in this book.
 - Went to work on an egg (takes time - but worth it when you get there)²⁸
 - Went ‘Back to basics’²⁹, and then back to cricket (and his wife) after several years of screwing Edwina Currie, a member of parliament and a government minister!
 - These days he seems to be quite sensible (when heard that is) on his ex PM's super dooper pension (but don’t listen too closely)
 - A hypocrite and a bore
 - A bland mistake, created by *party* politics
- **Tony Blair** (New Labour: 1997 – 2007, another bad one, probably the worst)
 - For a brief few weeks, it seemed as though he was a new kind of politician, one who actually cared, and one who had the ideas and energy to improved Britain's lot. How wrong we were!
 - Took us into a war on his self deception, like George W Bush, *god told him what to do*
 - Developed lying to new heights and called it ‘spin’, and we all seem to accept it (incredible!)?
 - The master of the sound bite, but not a clue on how to actually *do* anything, a lightweight, but a dangerously charming and fluent lightweight
 - Blatant misuse of power in awarding honours for cash (to be fair I have to add that most politicians have done this too, but it still stinks)
 - Kept Ian Hislop busy ... (Editor of Private Eye), probably the only newspaper left that is worth reading

25 Maastricht is explained in Chapter 6 – an insidious, criminal error ...

26 Quasi Non Governmental Organisation; a clever invention to avoid the responsibility that government ministers should assume, to a hidden non-democratic, unelected body of overpaid bureaucrats

27 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cones_Hotline

28 just Google ‘salmonella in eggs, Edwina Currie, major’, such fun!

29 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Back_to_Basics_campaign where he advocated a return to Christian moral principles – *what a hypocrite!*

- A mentally ill conviction politician guided by voices in his head (god & his ego)
- He is now seen, by most, as a money grabbing self deluded self publicist.
- Incredibly, still a free man and, even more incredibly, people actually pay money to listen to his delusional crap, even now!

9. **Gordon *prudence* Brown** (New Labour: 2007 – 2010)

- A tragic, dangerous mistake in British party politics (but a direct consequence of it)

'Saved the world'³⁰, thanks Gordon, but what about us?

Never understood the meaning of the word *prudence* although he used it in every budget speech he ever gave. (I devote much of Chapter 1 to this sad and misguided politico, yet another mentally ill conviction politician guided by voices in his head (not god this time but a “remembrance of Gordon past”).

Another case of a *Number 2* making it to the *Number 1* slot (Major, Home and Callaghan) desperate for power that he neither deserved nor could use. A triumph of a party politically driven ego over sense.

- **Cameron & Clegg** (2010 – 2015), ah bless ...
 - Started so well (6 week love in), but then went on to privatise the NHS and our forests (which manifesto was that in again?)
 - Have, with mind boggling stupidity, further enhanced the socially divisive academies program started by that idiot Blair.
 - In short, the same short sighted, ill conceived, small minded, party political crap decision making that caused Thatcher to privatise our water supply (incredible)
 - Have now sold off Northern Rock at the bottom of the market for a 700 million loss. It seems they learned nothing from Gordon who did the same with our gold reserves.
 - Embarked on a disastrous top down driven NHS re-organisation not mentioned in either party’s manifesto and *specifically ruled out* by Cameraman before the 2010 election.
 - Change? – Pah! More of the same lies and drivel ...

Clueless, hubristically egocentric and criminally negligent in their duties, most have retired on huge pensions paid for by their *desensitised*³¹ “subjects”. (I say “subjects” because both Thatcher³² and Blair had delusions of being royalty).

We the people have come to expect so little from them and expect to be so badly shafted by those in power that we have lost the sense of rage that we should feel. There seems to be nobody speaking for us; the few notable exceptions are not listened to by more than a handful of people.

30 Alluding to his famous Freudian slip in PMQs 10th December 2008 – it was clear that he thought he had “saved the world”, everyone else knew better ...

31 We now expect incompetence from our politicians and seemingly have no way to hold them to account

32 On a television program after the birth of her first grandchild she said, 'We have become a grandmother.'" She also had the Falklands army troop past her, upon their triumphant return, BUT did not invite the Queen!

The worst³³, by far, were Blair & Thatcher (well OK the jury is still out on Brown³⁴) both of whom share the dubious honour of being the only post war Prime Ministers to be removed from office by their own foot soldiers who had come to see that they were mentally ill electoral liabilities (and probably barking mad too). Both started wars for reasons of face saving and diversion from their policy incompetence – ‘always a good political ploy when things go wrong at home’ (“Tally hoho”). “Too much power corrupts”³⁵ and they were prime examples of what too many years of listening to fawning party supporters can do to the mind.

Well, there we have it.

Pretty grim reading eh?

Are there any saving graces amongst our post war politicians?

Well, yes, there is one. The best by government far, led by Clement Atlee, was the first Labour government after the Second World War; politicians were actually thinking about the needs of Britain, they had to, and they rose to the occasion magnificently.

So, let us please hear a big cheer for Clement Atlee, hurrah! But we must not forget William Beveridge as being the intellectual powerhouse behind that government, but let not that diminish what they actually achieved, they:

- Created the NHS
- Nationalised the bank of England
- Took control of *our* coal, iron & steel
- Fed & housed us quickly and efficiently after the war

Since then, sadly, we have descended into the party political small minded crap we endure today and it is getting worse and worse and worse.

Today’s politicians have actually made a virtue of the fact that they have no vision for the future of Britain. They call it “a period of reflection and policy development”. I refer to Ed Miliband and Dave Cameron, both of whom spent a year formulating policy and saying nothing.

This supports the basic premise for this book, in that neither dared admit to a foundation of philosophy upon which to base their ideas.

This is simply because they feel driven to react to the 24/7 news media business that party politics has become, *rather than to have a sound philosophical base position, from which all else should flow.*

I will hopefully present enough evidence in this book to demonstrate that it is *because of*

33 Because of their insane egos, both were presidential in style “because they believed they were right” – “so that’s alright then”, I hear Ian Hislop say

34 ...the jury is back and Brown was possibly even worse than Blair & Thatcher – well done Gordon!

35 This arose as a quotation by John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton, first Baron Acton (1834–1902). He expressed this opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men." Another English politician with no shortage of names - William Pitt, the Elder, British Prime Minister from 1766 to 1778, is sometimes wrongly attributed as the source. He did say something similar, in a speech to the UK House of Lords in 1770: "Unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it".

party politics that these politicians were corrupted by their power, distracted by party political considerations when their full attention was required elsewhere. They just gradually forgot why they went into politics. I don't think many of these people³⁶ were intentionally stupid, corrupt or bad at making the right decisions for us. It's just that they were not prepared for, or educated in, the exercise of public power to the degree that now is required by an ever better informed public.

That is one good thing to emerge from the invention of the World Wide Web and the largely free press we enjoy in the UK.

I heard this all put wonderfully well by Tony Parsons on 'This Week' in 2012:

*"As I was growing up there were five British Prime Ministers in a row that were educated by the state, 1964 to 1997 and I don't think that could ever happen again. We will forever be ruled by **unexceptional men** who have had an **exceptional education**".*

He was of course talking about the 2010 coalition of Cameron & Clegg, and the Millibean brothers and other balls-aches of miserable, misguided new labour.

The following speeches, from our last five Prime Ministers, are included here because of the lessons we should and must learn from them.

Read each one and, if you are old enough to remember what happened afterwards you will see the truth of my comments on each one.

If you are too young to remember, then just ask your parents or grand parents.

You will see, **from their own words**, that Politicians are either:

- Lying bastards
- Self deluded egoists
- Extremely ill suited for the serious job just handed to them
- Economically illiterate (their debt management figures are proof)
- Not very good at actually doing anything useful for 'we the people'

Probably, the fairest answer is that they are a combination of all four, which leads me to the conclusion that the case for an improved democratic organisation is hereby proved!

[Ed: Knighthood lost in the post]

In each speech below, the biggest lies, self delusions and failures are highlighted for your enjoyment.

I have also included the figures for Government debt for each of their terms.

As a rule of thumb, each of these incompetents managed to double the UK National debt during their term in office.

Yup, each managed to double the national debt.

Here is the evidence, in their own words and numbers!

David Cameron 2010: -

36 but I do not apply an excuse to Blair

(Govt. debt in 2010 was £780 billion...

he added £800 billion to make £1.6 trillion by Jan 2015)

'Her Majesty the Queen has asked me to form a new government and I have accepted. Before I talk about that new government, let me say something about the one that has just passed.

Compared with a decade ago, this country is more open at home and more compassionate abroad and that is something we should all be grateful for and on behalf of the whole country I'd like to pay tribute to the outgoing prime minister for his long record of dedicated public service.

In terms of the future, our country has a hung parliament where no party has an overall majority and we have some deep and pressing problems - a huge deficit, deep social problems, a political system in need of reform.

For those reasons I aim to form a proper and full coalition between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats.

I believe that is the right way to provide this country with the strong, the stable, the good and decent government that I think we need so badly.³⁷

Nick Clegg and I are both political leaders that want to put aside party differences and work hard for the common good and for the national interest.

I believe that is the best way to get the strong government that we need, decisive government that we need today.

I came into politics because I love this country. I think its best days still lie ahead and I believe deeply in public service.

And I think the service our country needs right now is to face up to our really big challenges, to confront our problems, to take difficult decisions, to lead people through those difficult decisions, so that together we can reach better times ahead.

One of the tasks that we clearly have is to rebuild trust in our political system. Yes that's about cleaning up expenses, yes that is about reforming parliament, and yes it is about making sure people are in control and that the politicians are always their servant and never their masters.

But I believe it is also something else. It is about being honest about what government can achieve. Real change is not what government can do on its own - real change is when everyone pulls together, comes together, works together, where we all exercise our responsibilities to ourselves, to our families, to our communities and to others.

And I want to help try and build a more responsible society here in Britain. One where we don't just ask what are my entitlements, but what are my responsibilities.

*One where we don't ask what am I just owed, but more what can I give.*³⁸

And a guide for that society - that those that can should, and those who can't we will always help.

I want to make sure that my government always looks after the elderly, the frail the

37 No Dave, your government is the result of the electorate not having enough trust in any of the main parties!

38 Brazenly 'borrowed' from President John F Kennedy's famous inaugural Address, 20th January 1961. Well worth a read : <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/BqXIEM9F4024ntFI7SVAjA.aspx>

poorest in our country.

We must take everyone through with us on some of the difficult decisions we have ahead.

Above all it will be a government that is built on some clear values. Values of freedom, values of fairness, and values of responsibility.³⁹

*I want us to build an economy that rewards work. I want us to build a society with stronger families and stronger communities. **And I want a political system that people can trust and look up to once again.***

This is going to be hard and difficult work. A coalition will throw up all sorts of challenges.

*But I believe together we can provide that strong and stable government that our country needs based on those values - rebuilding family, **rebuilding community**⁴⁰, above all, rebuilding responsibility in our country.*

Those are the things I care about. Those are the things that this government will now start work on doing.

Thank you very much.'

Cameraman and Clegg then went on to enact policies that were not in either of the pre-election manifestos of either party.

Gordon Brown (2007 – 2010 debt goes from £500 billion to £760 billion + £85 billion of PFI debt going on for the next 30 years)

I have had to just reprint only parts of his speech, otherwise you might all have gone to sleep, it was so long, boring and vomit inducing.

“Can I start by saying thank you. It is with humility, pride and a great sense of duty that I accept the privilege and the great responsibility of leading our party and changing our country. I will endeavour to justify every day and in every act the trust you have placed in me.” [Ed: Yuk]

*“So let me begin by personally thanking Tony Blair (Ed: ROFL), a man who for ten years (Ed: ... I have hated) has borne the burden of leadership of our country. **All of us will remember his leadership.** His leadership has made Britain stronger, more tolerant, more prosperous and fairer.*

***Tony Blair's achievements are unprecedented, historic and enduring.** [Ed: Yuk]*

Tony – on behalf of the Labour party, thank you.” [Ed: Yuk]

“This week I will form a new government with new priorities to meet the new challenges ahead. And having visited every part of Britain and listened to and learned from the British people, I have seen at first hand a Britain of rising aspiration and I see the need for change to meet new needs. I've met parents in Newcastle wanting more help to balance work and family life, teenagers in Lewisham wanting better chances of education after school, working mothers in Basildon calling for better child care ...”

[... and on and on]

39 Please note that although he *uses* the word “clear” he does not actually make anything clear at all!

40 Particularly all those communities that Margaret Thatcher destroyed in the 1980's (mining in Wales and manufacturing in the Midlands and the North of England) and for whom the conservative party did absolutely nothing to improve. Incidentally, Cameron has done nothing either, to date, well don't hold your breath!

“I have learned from the difficult decisions we had to make in economic policy that successful progress depends not on quick fixes or taking the easy option –that is not the New Labour way – but on having the strength to take the long term course and see it through. If people think we will achieve our goals in the future by retreating to failed approaches of the past, then they have not learned the lesson I have learned from the last ten years.” [Ed: Unbelievable gibberish – the man is in complete denial]

[This from the incompetent idiot who cost us and our grand children £billions in extending PFI first introduced by John Major]

“For families and pensioners who want an NHS there when they need it, we will meet the challenge of change. For people wanting a stronger democracy, we will meet the challenge of change. And we will govern for all the people of our country. This week marks a new start. A chance to renew. And I say to the people of Britain: The new government I will lead belongs to you. I will work hard for you. I shall always try my utmost. I am ready to serve.”

This has got to rank as one of the most deluded piles of bollocks uttered by any politician. The self-delusion is truly gob-smacking, apart from, of course:

Tony Blair: (1997-2007: debt goes from £348 billion to £500 billion)

”I have just accepted Her Majesty the Queen’s kind offer to form a new administration and government for the country. John Major’s dignity and courage over the last few days and the manner of his leaving, is the mark of the man. I am pleased to pay tribute to him. As I stand here before 10 Downing Street I know all too well the huge responsibility that is upon me and the great trust that the British people have placed in me. I know well what this country has voted for today. It is a mandate for New Labour⁴¹ and I say to the people of this country, we ran for office as New Labour, we will govern as New Labour.

This is not a mandate for dogma or for doctrine, or for a return to the past, but it was a mandate to get those things done in our country that desperately need doing for the future. And this new Labour government will govern in the interests of all our people - the whole of this nation. That I can promise you. When I became leader of the Labour party some three years ago I set a series of objectives. By and large I believe we have achieved them.

Today we have set objectives for new Labour Government – a world class education system. Education is not the privilege of the few but the right of the many.

A new Labour Government that remembers that it was a previous Labour Government that formed and fashioned the welfare state and the National Health Service. It was our proudest creation. It shall be our job and our duty now to modernise it for a modern world, and that we will also do.

We will work in partnership with business to create the dynamic economy, the competitive economy of the future. The one that can meet the challenges of an entirely new century and new age.

And it will be a government that seeks to restore trust in politics in this country. That cleans it up, that decentralises it, that gives people hope once again that politics is and always should be about the service of the public. And it shall be a government, too, that gives this country strength and confidence in leadership both at home and abroad, particularly in respect of Europe.

41 No it wasn't, we voters were so sick of John Major's corrupt administration that anything else would have done! Self delusion from the beginning.

It shall be a government rooted in strong values, the values of justice and progress and community, the values that have guided me all my political life. But a government ready with the courage to embrace the new ideas necessary to make those values live again for today's world, a government of practical measures in pursuit of noble causes. That is our objective for the people of Britain.⁴²

Above all, we have secured a mandate to bring this nation together, to unite us — one Britain, one nation in which our ambition for ourselves is matched by our sense of compassion and decency and duty towards other people. Simple values, but the right ones. For 18 years — for 18 long years — my party has been in opposition. It could only say, it could not do. Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today, enough of talking — it is time now to do.”

... fine words, but, as we came to expect, he just screwed it all up with his mate whom he hated, Gordon Brown. What a criminal waste of 13 years ...

The verdict?

Guilty as charged. History will revile him as I do.

“Well, it's been a wonderful campaign. Congratulations!” (To his party workers.)

John Major: (1990-1997: debt goes from £153 billion to £348 billion)

Good morning to you all.

*May I say firstly that **I am extremely grateful for the trust that my Parliamentary colleagues have put in me⁴³** and for the tremendous support that we have already had from so many people up and down the country. **I hope in the next few years that I will be able to prove that that trust is justified.***

I am grateful also for the enormous achievements that I inherit from Margaret Thatcher. I think history will record that she was a towering Prime Minister who left our country in a far better condition than she found it eleven years ago.⁴⁴

I hope in the next few years to build on those achievements. I certainly hope in those years to build a society of opportunity. By that I mean an open society, a society in which what people fulfil will depend upon their talent, their application and their good fortune. What people achieve should depend particularly upon those things and I hope increasingly in the future that that will be the case.

*I believe very firmly in the 1990s that we will have a decade of the most remarkable opportunities. **We have soon the full opening and flowering of the single Market in Europe.** We have seen in the last few years the remarkable ending of the Cold War and the bringing together of nations in a fashion that no-one would have imagined just a few years ago. We have in front of us the building and development of an entirely new Europe, a building and development in which this country will play a full and leading role.*

In the past week we have seen openly and publicly the uniting of the Conservative Party. I would like to express again my thanks to all members of the Party and particularly Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine for the enormous contributions they have made

42 So many words, empty of detail, an action plan or sincerity, sound bites that sounded so good!

43 Self delusion or lie: the simple facts were, that no strong member of the cabinet could find enough support and therefore Major was appointed as the least worst choice.

44 ROFL – apart from sorting out the unions, she was a disaster, as I hope I will show you in Chapters 1,2,and 3.

during the leadership contest to ensure that the Party can remain united for the future.

There is no ill-feeling at the end of this contest, at the end of this week for the leadership of the Conservative Party. At the end of this week I believe that there is a smile on the face of the Party that will mean we are fully united for the future.

I hope in the next few years that we will carry on with much of the work that has been done in the last few years. In particular I want to see us build a country that is at ease with itself, a country that is confident, and a country that is prepared and willing to make the changes necessary to provide a better quality of life for all our citizens.

I do not promise you that it will be easy and I do not promise you that it will be quick, but I believe it is an immensely worthwhile job to do. Because it will be neither easy nor quick, if you will forgive me, I will go into Number 10 straight away and make a start right now.

Thank you very much indeed.

After Major lost the 1997 election, the conservatives were in such a bad position that neither they, nor any political party for that matter, could achieve an electoral majority!

This continued to be the case until 2015 when to everyone's surprise, including the Tories, Cameron fluked it. Nobody could understand Ed Millibean or see him as a Prime Minister and Clegg was the Liberal Democrats death rattle.

Margaret Thatcher

(1979-1990: debt goes from £87 billion to £153 billion)

Thank you very much.

Question

How do you feel at this moment?

Mrs. Thatcher

Very excited, very aware of the responsibilities. Her Majesty The Queen has asked me to form a new administration and I have accepted. It is, of course, the greatest honour that can come to any citizen in a democracy. (Cheering) I know full well the responsibilities that await me as I enter the door of No. 10 and I'll strive unceasingly to try to fulfil the trust and confidence that the British people have placed in me and the things in which I believe.

And I would just like to remember some words of St. Francis of Assisi⁴⁵ which I think are really just particularly apt at the moment. 'Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope' ... and to all the British people—howsoever they voted—may I say this. (Ed: No more please, I feel sick ...)

Now that the Election is over, may we get together and strive to serve and strengthen the country of which we're so proud to be a part. [Interruption "Prime Minister"] And finally, one last thing: in the words of Airey Neave whom we had hoped to bring here with us, 'There is now work to be done'.

Question *Prime Minister, could I ask you if you would tell us what sort of administration you would like to have over the next five years?*

45 After you finish vomiting, just remember Blair and "This is not the time for sound bites but ...I feel the hand of destiny on my shoulder .." (Ed: Yuk)

Mrs. Thatcher *Well, we shall be going inside and we shall be getting on with that as fast as we can ... but I think the first job is to try to form a Cabinet. We must get that done. We can't really just ...*

Question *How soon do you think you'll be able to name your Cabinet?*

Mrs. Thatcher *Well, certainly not today. I hope to have some news by tomorrow evening. It's a very important thing. It's not a thing that should be suddenly rushed through. It's very important.*

Question *And what will you be doing for the rest of today?*

Mrs. Thatcher *I shall be here working.*

Question *Have you got any thoughts, Mrs. Thatcher, at this moment about Mrs. Pankhurst and your own mentor in political life, your own father?*

Mrs. Thatcher *Well, of course, I just owe almost everything to my own father. I really do. He brought me up to believe all the things that I do believe and they're just the values on which I've fought the Election. And it's passionately interesting for me that the things that I learned in a small town, in very modest home, are just the things that I believe have won the Election. Gentlemen, you're very kind. May I just go*

She was eventually forced out of office by her own cabinet who realised, far too late, that she had become mentally ill and an electoral disability.

Sorry about that acceptance speech interlude but it just had to be done. You are excused if you need a cup of tea or something stronger.

Welcome back.

My central thesis here is that the world has just got a bit too complicated, and the public just a bit too well informed, to leave the administration of its resources and citizens to inappropriately educated, *party* politically motivated, small minded *professional* politicians.

They may, as is David Cameron, be well suited to developing marketing campaigns for toothpaste, but running a country?

We need people who are broader, wiser and more appropriately educated to run this country.

Socrates and Plato certainly thought so⁴⁶ and that was some 2,500 years ago ... (see Chapter 13).

'Left' and 'right' just don't cut it any more; we need to move on.

Party politicians are necessarily driven by ego and therefore *need* positive, fast feedback for their policy pronouncements; however, they have none of the required wisdom, vital for *long term*⁴⁷ decision making. They have to think in terms of *political* payback in 2 or 3 years because that is the current electoral system, and, since turkeys don't vote for Christmas, it has to be up to *someone else* to change the system.

46 Plato's "Republic" proclaims the need for an educated elite of "philosopher administrators" ...

47 Long term strategic thinking would have kept our water supply, the electricity grid in public ownership; owned *by* the people *for* the people.

However, I do not forget that even with the crass behaviour of politicians seemingly endless administrative inefficiencies and cock-ups that our country has suffered for over 1000 years, Britain has still managed to evolve, albeit slowly, from tribal warfare to a unified monarchical society with a reasonable system of democracy, a country where our central institutions are solid and, above all, *stable*.

Remember dear reader, it took us 1,500 years to get here and whilst it is by no means perfect – ‘*here*’ is *stable*.

Without that precious stability I could not begin to propose what I will propose later on in this book.

Once again in this great country’s history, it is time for a fundamental change. Why?

Everywhere there are signs of civilisation in decay:

- the democratic process is broken (just over 50% of us voting) because “*I can’t make any difference, and anyway, they aren’t listening*”
- society is broken – 8% of the “working population” are not working (probably more like 20% but government statistics are confusing)
- MP's opinions don't count in Parliament as they rarely express their constituents’ opinions – so, what *is* the point of them?
- the growth of a political class. MPs who do the “job”, who quite like the pay, status and perks but are clueless and useless because they have no experience of earning real money from real toil
- politicians are seen to be incompetent, aloof and on the take (well, ok *not quite* as bad as Italy (Sylvio Berlusconi's corruption was just *incredible!*)).
- our children barely speak the mother tongue any more, From Glasgow to Torquay there is a black, respect, Jamaican drug based patois which *they* know *we* find objectionable
- it is currently naff to be seen to be clever or to enjoy being educated
- the gap between rich and poor is widening dramatically, even, and *especially* under the last *labour* government (*incredible*) creating a growing underclass of people who are just not part of Britain any more, no jobs, no aspirations, no hope and no way out. Bring back the days of the working class against the toffs, at least we were alive then and could clearly see who the enemy was; but with toffs called Dave now leading us, words fail me ...
- the Westminster bubble of politicians & journalists who are London-centric to such a degree that resources and news coverage are distorted, uneven and therefore, socially divisive
- the complete disconnect of “I know my rights” from “I know my responsibilities”
- the violent, abusive 4 year old leering at his teacher saying “you can’t touch me Miss, so fuck off⁴⁸”

I probably use the word “*incredible*” too much in this book, but it is the best way to describe my despair in “seeing” all this and feeling like the small boy in “The Emperors New Clothes”⁴⁹.

48 Quote from a Worcester pupil in my wife’s nursery class in 2001– it has become far worse since then! The father was called in and said “aw babs – have you had a bad day ...” my wife was left speechless.

49 Hans Christian Andersen’s story

Just in case you are not aware of that story, it goes as follows:

The Emperor of a far off land was mainly concerned with his appearance and spent vast sums of his subjects' cash on expensive suits of clothing.

One day two new weavers arrived who said they could make the most wonderful cloth from spun gold and jewels, but, that only those of sufficient worthiness would actually see the wonderful cloth they could weave.

The Emperor gave them gold and jewels and they started work at their looms having carefully stashed away the jewels in their travel bags.

When the invisible and non-existent suit was presented to the Emperor and his courtiers they all said how wonderful it was because they were all too scared to appear "unworthy" and stupid.

It took the innocence of a little boy to point out that the Emperor was in fact a fat, naked, silly old man.

The "Emperor" is today's party political class system.

The suits of clothes are the new shiny "policies" (how I have come to hate that word) which pop up daily in the poli-news⁵⁰ where even the good policies are never thought or followed through, oh and never financed properly.

Yet ... there remains hope, there just has to be and this is my contribution to a positive change so sorely needed by our battered nation.

Great Britain is a stable and largely safe place to live, to have fun and work, *despite* the damn party politicians who cannot see past their limited field of view, pensions and perks.

Hurrah for the Britain we all need to fight for, yet again!

The main theme of the book is that Party Politics has become a real hindrance to rational thought and *governance* of Britain.

Apart from the fact that the main three parties are now all fighting over the same ideological ground, far, far too much brainpower is spent on politicking fluff rather than the business of actually managing our public resources and steering Britain through the world's choppy waters.

All political parties perpetuate their own myths and some even have shared belief systems which I expose below:

- The myth that economic growth is the way out of *the mess we are all in*: think about it for just a minute and you will see that growth just cannot go on for ever; we need to start thinking about our unsustainable population and diminishing food and water resources.
- Growth needs a far better definition than the current one based on GDP. Debt based growth (i.e. the growth we have had for the last 30 years) is not growth at all and has only achieved a massive redistribution of wealth from most of *us* to a tiny number of *them*.
- The belief that privatisation works for all activities: Our British railways mess is one big argument for re-nationalisation ASAP! Privatised water supply and electricity grid are the other two main damning pieces of evidence.

⁵⁰ *poli-news* is my term for the discussion in the media of the politics of the problem rather than the issue itself, where politics is the recently corrupted use of the word (see Chapter 1)

- The belief that we are all created equal: We are not! The Normal Curve disproves that again and again.
- The myth we all have inalienable human rights: We don't! Human rights are won initially by war and violence and then maintained by peace, an army plus a ministry of defence.

My case in summary:

- Politics used to mean *of and for the people* but now means *of the party politicians* and the pointless discussion of how *what* someone said, might be *perceived* by others and whether or not this will damage their *credibility*
- Party politicians have shown themselves to be criminally incompetent at managing the nation's resources.
- The British people must reclaim their ineptly privatised resources
- The British people, indeed the world, must reduce the insane power of the 'markets' and globalisation
- Party Politics is dead, it died in 1992

Something must be done to change all that, and I have a few ideas – read on ...